



DELBERT HOSEMAN  
*Secretary of State*



## 2016 Writing Contests

***Please attach the entry form securely to the back of the entry.***

The Writing Contests provide Mississippi students a chance to express their views on important issues facing the State of Mississippi and our Nation.

First, second, and third place winners will be selected in each contest. Judges may also choose to bestow Honorable Mention honors. The Secretary of State's Office will not return submitted entries. Please keep a copy for the student's records.

### **7-9 Essay: If I were Elected President, I Would...**

*Write an essay (500-word maximum) about what you would accomplish if you were elected as President of the United States of America. Choose and research what authority or sphere of influence that position is assigned and then identify an issue or situation that you would have the authority and influence to address or change.*

### **7-9 Editorial: Fix It**

*Identify what you consider to be one of the most critical problems in the United States of America. Write an editorial column (250-word maximum) that describes the problem and your proposal for how our elected officials should work toward resolving it.*

### **10-12 Essay: If I were Elected President, I Would...**

*Write an essay (500-word maximum) about what you would accomplish if you were elected as President of the United States of America. Identify key problems or issues you would address and explain the details of your proposed solutions.*

### **10-12 Editorial: The Most Important Thing America Needs to Do Is...**

*Identify what you consider to be one or more of the top issues facing our Country in the next four years. Write an editorial column (250-word maximum) describing the problem(s) or issue(s) and outline your proposal for how our elected officials should address or tackle that issue.*

## WRITING CONTESTS JUDGING PROCESS

- Student writers' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges.
- Entries not conforming to the Official Rules of the Contest will be ineligible for competition.
- Entries will be judged for content, original thought, power of expression, writing style and grammar.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.

## WRITING CONTESTS OFFICIAL RULES

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's Office in Jackson no later than Monday, Dec. 5, 2016.
2. Entries may be mailed to the Promote the Vote Writing Contests, Secretary of State's Office, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205 or hand-delivered to the first floor receptionist at 401 Mississippi Street, Jackson.
3. Entries must be typed, single-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 (letter size) paper and multiple pages should be paper clipped rather than stapled. An adult may type the entry for the student.
4. All pages must be numbered in the upper right hand corner.
5. Contestants must be in Grades 7-12 in a school registered for Promote the Vote 2016.
6. The entry must be the original thought and composition of the contestant alone.
7. Direct quotations from sources must be properly attributed.
8. Only one entry per contest may be submitted by each contestant. Students may enter multiple contests.
9. Each entry must be accompanied by the entry application.
10. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.